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40 YEARS OF INVESTIGATIONS IN THE ANDES (1972–2012)

This volume contains re-editions of articles from different periods of my 40-year-long research activity in Peru, from the first expedition to the Huaura River Valley, up to the most recent research on the Central Coast.

When I first came to Peru in 1972 as an engineering geologist commissioned to document coal reserves, I had already had quite a good knowledge of the archaeology of this region, since I had been interested in it for a few years. I spent the first few months in a mountain town of Oyón in the Lima Region, where I worked in a team developing a geological map of the upper basin of the River Huaura. This region turned out to be extremely rich in pre-Columbian historical sites: ruins of fortified settlements and cemeteries. It would be futile to search for any mention of them in the literature of that time. I owe it to the inspiration and kindness of Dr Josefina Ramos de Cox, director of Seminario de Arqueología del Instituto Riva-Agüero in Lima, that I started researching and documenting these sites. She allowed me to do fieldwork under her patronage, to present the materials at meetings in Seminario, and later on also to deposit them there. On similar terms, an archaeological research in the following year, this time in the north of Peru, in the upper part of the Chicama Valley (La Libertad Department), was carried out. It yielded so much material, that I used them to prepare and defend my doctoral thesis in archaeology at Warsaw University, entitled: “Pre-Columbian settlement patterns in the basin of the River Alto Chicama, northern Peru.”

Another stay in Peru in 1977 was connected with my participation in a Polish expedition studying agriculture in various Andean countries, which also served to prepare for the arrival of the first Polish research team.

This was the Polish Scientific Expedition to the Andes, which from 1978 on implemented a long-term and multidisciplinary project called Huaura-Checras. I returned to the region I had first visited six years before and devoted myself to studying it for

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nearly a decade, until 1987. A team of archaeologists, ethnologists and geographers working under my supervision conducted research on settlement in this high-mountain region since pre-Hispanic times up to the present.

Immediately after completing the study in the Checra River basin I went on to study settlements of the Chancay culture, the then knowledge of which was limited almost exclusively to museum collections. Like with the previous archaeological projects, I was mainly interested in the issues of settlement patterns and the analysis and typology of ceramics. I conducted fieldwork in the Chillón, Chancay, Huaura and Supe valleys first in the years 1987–1990, and after a break due to my diplomatic service I resumed my research in 2000. Recent years have been devoted to the study of fortified sites in the region. I went to Peru for the last time in 2013; unfortunately, a serious illness has made it rather unlikely for me to return to fieldwork, but fortunately there is still a lot of material waiting to be analyzed and published.

Wherever I conducted archaeological research I also made observations of ethnological nature. It was of some importance that during many seasons of research I was accompanied by my wife Roma, whose interests were directed more towards ethnology; as a result, we wrote some joint articles, two of which are included in this volume. I was especially interested in folk arts and crafts, which with time resulted in a large collection of objects of this kind. Today, they enrich the collections in Polish ethnographic museums in Warsaw and Kraków.

When I began my work in Peru more than 40 years ago, I was the only archaeologist from Poland there. Today the number of Polish archaeologists working in Peru as well as in neighbouring countries is significant. I am glad that two archaeologists, Mariusz Ziółkowski and Krzysztof Tunia, who first came to Peru with me in 1978 as members of the Polish Scientific Expedition to the Andes are still actively involved in the research in the Andes.

Preparing this collection of articles, it was impossible not to recall a number of Peruvian archaeologists I met over these 40 years. With some of them I collaborated closely and with others my contacts were less intense, although long-term and friendly. I experienced a lot of kindness and often selfless help from them, without which such long activity there would not have been possible for me. Sadly, some of them are no longer with us, like the abovementioned Dr Josefina Ramos de Cox and her assistant and successor, Dr Mercedes Cardenas.

In the years 1978–1987, during the period of activity of the Polish Scientific Expedition to the Andes and the implementation of Proyecto Huaura-Checra, I collaborated closely with Dr Ramiro Matos Mendieta from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima. Through all those years I could always count on his advice and disinterested assistance. When it comes to the recent studies on the Central Coast in 2009–2013, I conducted them in cooperation with a representative of the younger generation of Peruvian archaeologists from that University, Lic. Pieter Van Dalen Luna, director of the Museo de Arqueología y Antropología de San Marcos. This expert on the region and Chancay culture was extremely helpful in both formal and organizational matters as well as in fieldwork and excavation.

I have good memories of contacts and in some cases occasional research collaboration with a number of archaeologists, of which I will mention only some: Arturo Ruiz Estrada, Hernán Amat Olazábal, Ruth Shady Solís, Alberto Bueno Mendoza, Daniel Morales Chocano, Luis Jaime Castillo Butters, Carlos Farfán Lobaton, Miguel Cornejo Guerrero. Among them, it is impossible not to mention Dr Krzysztof Makowski, a Polish-Peruvian archaeologist living permanently in Peru.

There were also many historians, ethnologists and architects I worked with or whose advice I used: Maria Rostworowski de Diez Canseco, Amalia Castelli, Pablo Macera, Rosalia Avalos de Matos, Carlos Williams, Sandra Negro.

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The present collection contains only articles published in Poland, in little-known publishing houses, issued in low circulation and sometimes only in Polish. The aim of this volume is to introduce them into worldwide circulation by revising and republishing them, with good illustrative material. Unfortunately, the poor quality of print meant that some of the illustrations in the original editions were not very clear, and therefore could not be directly reproduced. If it was possible, the original material was used, but in some cases it was necessary to redraw the illustration. The texts themselves were basically left in the original version, but the obvious editorial or printing errors were corrected and a unified citation method was introduced. In several cases, an up-to-date authorial commentary was considered appropriate to be added.

I would like to thank the co-authors for their permission to republish the articles and for their active involvement in the undertaking. I also thank the publishers for their permission to include these articles in this collection. I would also like to give special thanks to my friends, a Polish-Peruvian archaeologist couple, Sergio Chavez and Stanisława Stachniewicz-Chavez, who have contributed to this volume's publication.

